

Alberta Finance Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of February 3, 2003 to February 7, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits (\$ Millions)	December			
Alberta	604.2	5.9%	12.4%	In December, Alberta building permits were up 5.9% from the previous month, due mainly to a 14.2% increase in residential permits. Non-residential permits were down by 12.7%. For Canada, residential permits were up 4.6% from November, while non-residential permits were down by 14.8%, with total permits declining by 3.2%. Over the course of 2002, Canadian building permits were up by 16.0%, while total Alberta permits increased by 15.4%.
Canada	3831.9	-3.2%	17.8%	
Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	January			
Alberta	122.4	-0.7%	-12.3%	Alberta's Help-Wanted Index declined to 122.4 in January, down 0.7% from December. Canada's Index fell to 111.6, a drop of 1.7% from the previous month. Eight provinces experienced monthly declines, with the largest decreases recorded in Quebec (-2.3%) and Ontario (-1.6%). Prince Edward Island (+1.5%) and Nova Scotia (+1.0%) were the only provinces to record increases.
Canada	111.6	-1.7%	-11.3%	
Field Crop Reporting Series: Total Stocks of Grain at December 31, 2002 (Thousand Tonnes)	End of 2002		Year Over Previous Year -18.1%	Two consecutive droughts in Western Canada have reduced crop production, leading to a substantial decline in year-end grain inventories. Total stocks of grain, including both commercial and on-farm inventories, were down 18.1% from the end of 2001. The largest percentage decline was seen in barley, down 34%. In terms of volume, the largest decline was in wheat (including durum), where inventories fell by 4.9 million tonnes, a drop of 27% from 2001.